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The Wise And Foolish Virgins

Wyatt Sawyer

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THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

* Matthew 25:1-13

INT: Lesson must be cradled in surrounding context.
 Matt. 23. Jewish leaders censored. Laments Jer.
 Matt. 24. 3-events: Temple. Nation. 2nd Coming.
 Matt. 25. 3-items : Virgins. Talents. Judgment.
 Matt. 26-27. Arrest, trials & crucifixion.
 Matt. 28. Resurrection. *appearance. Great Comm.*
 Lesson in 25: Believe, Be watching, Be ready! 13.

I. SETTING OF PARABLE: PALESTINIAN WEDDING.

- A. WEDDINGS: Great event. Whole family, village!!
- B. MATES: Selected by parents at age 8-10. Fewer divorces. Family-name at stake. Honored
- C. BETROTHAL: legal-engagement, 12 mos. Binding.
 Ill. Joseph espoused (betrothed) to Mary. M. 1:18
- D. NIGHT: Guessing-game. Try to catch bride's party napping. Suspense. Excitement.
- E. REQUIREMENT: v. 6. Caller announced groom!!!!
- F. WEDDING: began when groom & party joined the bride and her party. Week-long party!!!
- G. VIRGINS: Dr. J. Alexander Findlay witnessed a fairly recent wedding-after old order.
 1. 10 girls awaiting groom. 10 torches-low.
 2. None allowed on street in dark without light
 3. Tardiness would cost them week of feasting.
 4. At week's end wedding party paraded through the streets; went home for another week of congratulations and visits. Man and wife!!!
 Ill. John A.: Jesus at Wedding in Cana. Knew!!!

II. SPIRITUAL SYMBOLISM IN PARABLE & MEANING TO US.

- A. WEDDING: Eph. 5:25-27*.
 1. Local: Unity of Christ and Jewish nation.
 2. Universal: Christ and His bride, church!!
- B. MATES: Preselected by the Father. E. 1:3-7.
- C. BETROTHAL: Legal waiting period. NOW!
 1. He has promised: Matt. 10:32. J. 10:10 Taste
 2. We promise: M. 10:32. Life: Romans 10:9-10
 We are Promised to Jesus, not united yet!!!
our choice
- D. VIRGINS: Represent friends, lost & saved.
 1. Wise: Saved. Ready. Prepared. Serious!
 2. Foolish: Unprepared. Unsaved. Too busy.
 a. Light: Oil-pot on pole with rag-wick.

- PROTH:* b. Ps. 119:105. Matt. 5:14. I J. 1:7.
c. OIL: Reserve. Preparation. Obedience.
Save time for Lord. Talent. Love.
- E. NIGHT: Uncertainty. Suspense. Drama.
Matt. 24:36. 42. 44. Stay alert!
- grew ready!* *Ill. Braniff #352. 84 died. Dawson, Tex. 5-4-68*
F. CALLER: is coming!
1. I Thess. 4:16-18. Wedding-time **Now!**
2. John 5:28-29. Hear! Rev. 1:7. See!
- Too late!* G. CLOSED DOORS: Today is prep. day. Tomorrow: **NO!**
1. Vs. 12. "I know you not." Matt. 7:21-23.
Ill. King & Court fester: "Biggest fool" KNT. II
- INV: TODAY'S MESSAGE FROM THIS ANCIENT PARABLE: P. 516
1. We are in the waiting, preparing period.
I Cor. 15:58. *R-P if haven't.*
 2. TODAY is really the only day you have in
which to prepare. II Cor. 6:2.
 3. Reject today's opportunity and Heaven's
doors will close forever ON YOU, and
they will never be opened again.
Mark. 16:15-16. Luke 13:3. Doors close d.
Closes doors! Closes doors! REV. 14:11.
- ARE HEAVEN'S DOORS CLOSED TO YOU RIGHT NOW???
- ONLY YOUR LOVING OBEDIENCE CAN OPEN THEM!!

SS 3-19-72
MT 3-9-75 2 R 1-I